

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel originally-filed claims 1-10, and add new claims 11-20 as provided below. The listing and status of these claims are provided as follows, on separate sheets:

Claims 1-10 (Cancelled).

11. (New) A hot-rolled steel sheet comprising:

at least one portion which comprises, in terms of percent by mass,

C of approximately 0.01% to 0.2%,

Si of approximately 0.01 to 0.3%,

Mn of approximately 0.1% to 1.5%,

P of at most approximately 0.1%,

S of at most approximately 0.03%,

Al of approximately 0.001% to 0.1%,

N of at most approximately 0.006%, and

a remainder of Fe and unavoidable impurities,

wherein a microstructure of the at least one portion includes a main phase having a form of a polygonal ferrite and a hard second phase, and

wherein a volume fraction of the hard second phase is approximately 3% to 20%, a hardness ratio of a hardness of the hard second phase to a hardness of the polygonal ferrite is about 1.5 to 6, and a grain size ratio of a grain size of the polygonal ferrite to a grain size of the hard second phase is at least approximately 1.5.

12. (New) The hot-rolled steel sheet for processing according to claim 11, wherein the at least one portion further comprises, in terms of percent by mass, at least one of:

B of approximately 0.0002% to 0.002%,

Cu of approximately 0.2% to 1.2%,

Ni of approximately 0.1% to 0.6%,

Mo of approximately 0.05% to 1%,

V of approximately 0.02% to 0.2%, or

Cr of approximately 0.01% to 1%.

13. (New) The hot-rolled steel sheet for processing according to claim 11, wherein the at least one portion further comprises, in terms of percent by mass, at least one of:

Ca of approximately 0.0005% to 0.005%, or

REM of approximately 0.0005% to 0.02%.

14. (New) The hot-rolled steel sheet for processing according to claim 11, wherein the at least one port is treated with zinc plating.

15. (New) A method for manufacturing a hot-rolled steel sheet, comprising:

rough-rolling a slab to obtain a rough rolled bar, the slab including, in terms of percent by mass, C of approximately 0.01% to 0.2%, Si of approximately 0.01 to 0.3%, Mn of approximately 0.1% to 1.5%, P of at most approximately 0.1%, S of at most approximately 0.03%, Al of approximately 0.001% to 0.1%, N of at most approximately 0.006%, and a remainder of Fe and unavoidable impurities;

finish rolling the rough rolled bar to obtain a rolled steel under conditions in which a sum of reduction rates of a final stage and a stage prior to the final stage is at least approximately 25%, a reduction rate of the final stage is about 1% to 15%, and a finishing temperature is in a temperature range from approximately Ar_3 transformation point temperature to an Ar_3 transformation point temperature + 100°C;

maintaining the rolled steel in a temperature range from approximately below the Ar_3 transformation point temperature to at least the Ar_1 transformation temperature for approximately 1 seconds to 15 seconds;

cooling the rolled steel to a temperature of approximately 350°C at a cooling rate of approximately at least 100°C/sec to obtain the hot-rolled steel sheet; and

coiling the hot-rolled steel sheet at a temperature of below approximately 350°C.

16. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein a starting temperature of the finish rolling is at least the Ar_3 transformation point temperature + 250°C.

17. (New) The method according to claim 15, further comprising heating at least one of the rough rolled bar or the rolled steel at least one of (i) until a start of the finish rolling step, or (ii) during the finish rolling step.

18. (New) The method according to claim 15, further comprising descaling at least one of the slab or the rough rolled bar from an end of the rough rolling step to a start of the finish rolling step.

19. (New) The method for according to claim 15, further comprising immersing the hot-rolled steel sheet in a zinc plating bath to galvanize the surface of the hot-rolled steel sheet.

20. (New) The method according to claim 19, further comprising alloying the hot-rolled steel sheet after the galvanizing step.